MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Has not the Government member stated that it will be only very sparingly that Section 18 will be made use of?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not in all cases that Section 18 is used.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): If Section 18 is not made use of in any case, then there is no necessity for such a provision.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): An enquiry in this case has justified the levy of a cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are the Government aware that Section 18 entitles the Government only to levy an irrigation cess as interest on the amount spent?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Have they not asked for a payment of Rs. 180 annually for the maintenance of the *todu*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not sure of that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The answer to part (*a*) is that Rs. 180 is necessary annually for the maintenance of the *todus*. My question is, are the Government aware that Section 18 does not entitle them to ask for such an amount?

PRESIDENT: I think you have rather missed your point. The fact that a Statute empowers the Government to levy a cess does not preclude them from applying the money realised under that power in whatever manner they may propose.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In regard to that part I wish to know whether the Government are aware that on 14-11-1896 the Revenue member stated that.

"Where a cess is levied in connection with an irrigation work, it is only just that the entire management of the work should be with the Government and the ryots should be free from all further liabilities."?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The whole matter has received the consideration of the Government before the application of Section 18 for the levy of a cess.

Kadutturutti-Neezhur road.

415. MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have made enquiries on the various petitions regarding the Kadutturutti-Neezhur road?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; the road is under investigation.

Confirmation of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

416. MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of volunteer Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have not been confirmed with the dates of their volunteering period and their acting appointments?

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(*b*) Will they be pleased to state what principle is adopted in confirming them in their posts?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There are no volunteer Assistant Surgeons or Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Medical Department at present.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

Administrative Board, Medical Services.

417. **MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN** (*Vaikam*): With reference to the Administrative Board, Medical Services, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who is the senior of the two official members;

(*b*) whether any substitute is appointed in the place of Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose during the period of her leave;

(*c*) if not, why; and

(*d*) whether transfers and special duty arrangements are effected by the Inspecting Medical Officer alone or in consultation with the other members?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The two officers belong to two different cadres in their substantive posts. Dr. Raman Tampi's permanent appointment is that of Medical Officer Nayar Brigade, and Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose is a Surgeon of the Medical Department. As in the Administrative Board, Medical Services, each officer is independent of the other, the question of their relative rank did not arise and was not considered.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) It was not considered necessary.

(*d*) Transfers and special duty arrangements are effected by the Board as well as by the Inspecting Medical Officer in accordance with the powers vested in them.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): With reference to part (*c*) of the question, may I know whether it was because there was not sufficient work that a substitute was not appointed for a lady member on the Board?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The vacancy was only for a short time and the Government thought that the work could be managed without a substitute.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): With regard to part (*d*) the question is whether the Inspecting Medical Officer could transfer Medical Officers without consulting the other members of the Board. That part is not answered.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is answered.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): No. The answer is vague and says that both the Inspecting Medical Officer and the members of the Board could transfer.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, not the members of the Board but the Board as a whole.

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